

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A nerve regeneration-inducing tube, comprising:

a tubular structure (A) made of a biodegradable material or bioabsorbable material including therein a ~~sponge-like~~ sponge matrix (B) made of a biodegradable material or bioabsorbable material and/or a linear nerve inducing channel (C); and

~~a definite space part~~ an insertion space for insertion of a nerve end formed at one end of the tubular structure (A).

2. (currently amended) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein a length of ~~the space part~~ the insertion space for insertion of a nerve end is about 1 to 20 mm.

3. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable material comprises a protein, a polypeptide, or a derivative thereof decomposed by a decomposing enzyme in a living organism, acid, or alkali.

4. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises a porous substance which allows permeation of liquid and gas.

5. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the bioabsorbable material comprises a protein, polypeptide, a derivative thereof, polysaccharide or a derivative thereof, polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, a copolymer of glycolic acid and lactic acid, a copolymer of lactic acid and ϵ -aminocaproic acid, or aliphatic polyester.

6. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable material or bioabsorbable material comprises collagen.

7. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the tubular structure (A) is made of a fibrous material.

8. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 7, wherein the fibrous material comprises a short fiber, long fiber, filament, floc, textile fabric, or non-woven fabric.

9. (currently amended) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the ~~sponge-like~~ sponge matrix (B) comprises a collagen sponge.

10. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the nerve-inducing channel (C) is formed by at least one fiber which is inserted into the tubular structure (A) in a longitudinal direction.

11. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the nerve-inducing channel (C) is formed by at least one hollow fiber in the tubular structure (A) in the longitudinal direction.

12. (currently amended) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the nerve-inducing channel (C) penetrates through the ~~sponge-like~~ sponge matrix (B).

13. (original) The nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, wherein the nerve-inducing channel (C) comprises a fiber or hollow fiber.

14. (currently amended) A method of using the nerve regeneration-inducing tube according to claim 1, comprising:

suturing an end of a central nerve inserted into ~~the space~~
~~part~~ the insertion space for insertion of a nerve end with the

tubular structure (A); and

suturing an end of a peripheral nerve with the end portion devoid of the space of the tubular structure (A) by means of a bio suture.